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Smallpox in Tennessee.

[Circular letter issued by the Tennessee State Board of Health to local health officers and copy transmitted to the Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.]

NASHVILLE, *January 29, 1898.*

SIR: In spite of the most extreme vigilance of our different county and city health officers, smallpox has been introduced into the State from Birmingham, as follows: Knoxville, 3 cases; Lenoir City, Loudon County, 2 cases; Mingo Mines, Claiborne County, 6 cases; Chattanooga, 1 case; Memphis, 1 case, and 1 case of suspicious eruptive disease (undoubtedly smallpox) reported 2 miles north of Huntingdon, Carroll County.

At all of the above points of infection prompt measures were adopted as to vaccination, isolation, and strict surveillance, followed by thorough disinfection, fumigation, etc.

At the suggestion of the State board of health I addressed a communication to Surgeon-General Wyman, Washington, D. C., petitioning him as the head of the United States Marine-Hospital Service to use every means in his power to protect the State of Tennessee against the constant introduction of smallpox from Birmingham, Ala. In reply, Dr. Wyman stated that he had already dispatched Passed Assistant-Surgeon Magruder, together with 30 or 40 assistants, to the infected territory in and about Birmingham, and that everything possible was being done to stamp out and restrict the spread of the disease; also, in his opinion, that within a short while the disease would be completely eradicated.

Yet, we know that the disease is liable to spread until May, or longer, and therefore I call upon you, as the representative of your board of health, to inaugurate, if you have not already done so, a thorough vaccination, and if necessary, revaccination, so that if by accident this pest should make its appearance within your jurisdiction, your people would feel to some degree safe and immune from infection, and the work of stamping out the disease, with you, would have already begun.

Be on the lookout for all suspicious individuals, and should they prove to be from the infected points above indicated, and unable to show a clean bill of health, I would advise that you keep them under strict surveillance for a period of fourteen days, pending any developments.

Very respectfully,

J. A. ALBRIGHT, M. D.,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Smallpox in Virginia.

[Telegram.]

BIG STONE GAP, VA., *February 1, 1898.*

One or 2 cases of smallpox at Norton, Va.; a few cases at Colburn, Va. Do not think Government inspector necessary.

JOSHUA MULLINS,
Mayor.